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L14: Entry 2 of 5

File: JPAB

Oct 26, 1993

PUB-NO: JP405278817A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 05278817 A
TITLE: INVENTORY MANAGEMENT DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: October 26, 1993

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

SAITO, SATORU

HORI, SHOJI

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

OMRON CORP

APPL-NO: JP04084074

APPL-DATE: April 6, 1992

INT-CL (IPC): B65G 1/137; G06F 15/21; G06F 15/24; G07C 11/00

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To provide an inventory management device allowing the preliminarily recognition of an article requiring supplement for each article by providing sensors for detecting the access of customers in corresponding positions every displayed article in a showcase, counting the detecting frequency of each sensor, and outputting the counting result according to output requirement.

CONSTITUTION: In conformation to the display position of each article of a plurality of showcases arranged in a shop 1, a plurality of access sensors 3 for detecting the access state of customers to articles are provided. Each access sensor 3 is connected to a totalizing device 4 by a transmission line 7. In the totalizing device 4, a counter in a corresponding RAM is incremented every input of the detection data on the basis of the cord data contained in the detection data, and the number of pieces purchased by customers or the frequency of customers taking interests is counted every article. When the operation data of a display key is inputted from a key controller, all the contents of the counters are read from the RAM, and the display data formed on the basis of the contents is indicated on a display 5.

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L14: Entry 2 of 5

File: JPAB

Oct 26, 1993

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 05278817 A
TITLE: INVENTORY MANAGEMENT DEVICE

Abstract Text (1):

PURPOSE: To provide an inventory management device allowing the preliminarily recognition of an article requiring supplement for each article by providing sensors for detecting the access of customers in corresponding positions every displayed article in a showcase, counting the detecting frequency of each sensor, and outputting the counting result according to output requirement.

Publication Date (1):

19931026

International Classification, Secondary (1):

G06F015/21

International Classification, Secondary (2):

G06F015/24



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L14: Entry 3 of 5

File: DWPI

Oct 29, 1999

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2000-029222
DERWENT-WEEK: 200008
COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Inventory control system for point of sales in supermarkets - displays goods
arranging quantity insufficiency quotient number of articles, insufficiency rate
along with alarm list data, during opening of store

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: TOKYO ELECTRIC CO LTD (TODK)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1998JP-0101431 (April 13, 1998)

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
JP 11296750 A	October 29, 1999		016	G07G001/12

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
JP 11296750A	April 13, 1998	1998JP-0101431	

INT-CL (IPC): B41 I 29/38; B65 G 1/137; G06 F 19/00; G07 G 1/01; G07 G 1/12

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: JP 11296750A
BASIC-ABSTRACT:

NOVELTY - At the time of opening, the goods arranging quantity insufficiency quotient number of articles, insufficiency rate are determined from various alarm list data of each store, stored in memory. The computed data are displayed along with stored alarm list, in the display of headquarters system (20).

USE - For point of sales in supermarkets.

ADVANTAGE - The staff in headquarters can understand the goods arranging order of each store, due to prompt display, during opening and closing of store. DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) - The figure shows block diagram of inventory control system. (20) Headquarters system.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: JP 11296750A
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/21

DERWENT-CLASS: P75 Q35 T01 T05
EPI-CODES: T01-J05A2; T05-L01D;



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L14: Entry 3 of 5

File: DWPI

Oct 29, 1999

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2000-029222
DERWENT-WEEK: 200008
COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Inventory control system for point of sales in supermarkets - displays goods
arranging quantity insufficiency quotient number of articles, insufficiency rate
along with alarm list data, during opening of store

IPC Class (3):
G06F

International Patent Classifications(Derived) (3):
G06F019/00

PF Publication Date (1):
19991029

Standard Title Terms (1):
INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEM POINT SALE SUPERMARKET DISPLAY GOODS ARRANGE QUANTITY
INSUFFICIENCY QUOTIENT NUMBER ARTICLE INSUFFICIENCY RATE ALARM LIST DATA OPEN
STORAGE



Generate Collection

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L14: Entry 4 of 5

File: DWPI

Dec 3, 1996

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1997-033784
DERWENT-WEEK: 199703
COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Data handling network for management of inventory data among dispersed hotel chain locations - has central host computer for storing hotel data and connected to local computers via network, gateway for peer-to-peer communication among cooperating application program tasks on host and local or client-server computers

INVENTOR: COLL, D; OUELLETTE, D M

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: ITT SHERATON CORP (INTT)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1993US-0014661 (February 8, 1993), 1994US-0299336 (August 31, 1994)

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
US 5581461 A	December 3, 1996		012	G06F153/02

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
US 5581461A	February 8, 1993	1993US-0014661	Cont of
US 5581461A	August 31, 1994	1994US-0299336	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 153/02

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5581461A
BASIC-ABSTRACT:

The central computer-processor data-base is interconnected with remote locations, via a gateway interface and communications network, which remote locations may comprise either local processors and associated local databases or terminal devices connected with the system via third-party systems or public networks.

ADVANTAGE - As hotel reservation and data management network, system supports not only storage and exchange of basic room-inventory reservation data between and among central and remote locations, but also data management features as single depleting inventory for both central and remote databases, rate plan restricted access, and display of room layout data at operator's terminal.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5581461A
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.2/4

DERWENT-CLASS: T01
EPI-CODES: T01-H07C3; T01-H07C5S; T01-J05A2; T01-M02A1B;

End of Result Set



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L14: Entry 5 of 5

File: DWPI

Jul 31, 1985

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1985-185710
 DERWENT-WEEK: 198531
 COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Interrogator-transporter for automatic shelf inventory system - sweeps through several transmit-receive frequency sets derived from master crystal oscillator tuned to PLL synthesiser

INVENTOR: EKCHIAN, J A; EKCHIAN, L ; GABRIEL, K J ; HOFFMAN, R W

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: REVLON INC (REVL)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1983US-0566534 (December 29, 1983)

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
GB 2152335 A	July 31, 1985		013	
AU 8437127 A	July 4, 1984		000	
AU 8824156 A	January 27, 1989		000	
CA 1251273 A	March 14, 1989		000	
CA 1277748 C	December 11, 1990		000	
DE 3447599 A	September 12, 1985		000	
FR 2557714 A	July 5, 1985		000	
GB 2152335 B	June 22, 1988		000	
US 4673932 A	June 16, 1987		000	
US 4862160 A	August 29, 1989		000	
ZA 8409989 A	February 13, 1986		000	

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
GB 2152335A	December 23, 1984	1984GB-0032726	
DE 3447599A	December 28, 1984	1984DE-3447599	
GB 2152335B	December 28, 1984	1984GB-0032726	
US 4673932A	December 29, 1983	1983US-0566534	
US 4862160A	March 20, 1987	1987US-0028342	

INT-CL (IPC): B65G 47/49; G01S 9/56; G01S 13/74; G05B 15/02; G06F 15/21; G06K 7/10; G06K 19/00; G06M 11/00; G08B 13/24; H03H 1/00; H03H 7/00; H04B 1/59; H04L 0/00; H04Q 9/12; H05K 3/06

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: GB 2152335A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

A mobile transceiver transmits at a pair of frequencies specific to a given stock keeping unit (SKU). Products of that SKU are equipped with tags which resonate at the unique pair of frequencies and reradiate simultaneously a third frequency to which the receiver portion of the transceiver is tuned. The amplitude of the third frequency detected by the receiver is a function of distance, receiver antenna pattern and the number of tag products present on the shelf or peg rack of the

particular .

As it moves down the aisle, the transceiver, preferably under software control, sweeps through the SKU specific transmit/ receive frequency sets derived from a master crystal oscillator and tuned in phase-locked loop frequency synthesising circuits so that they will track precisely the nominal SKU frequency sets.

ADVANTAGE - No individual scanning or manipulation required.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: GB 2152335B
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

A mobile transceiver transmits at a pair of frequencies specific to a given stock keeping unit (SKU). Products of that SKU are equipped with tags which resonate at the unique pair of frequencies and reradiate simultaneously a third frequency to which the receiver portion of the transceiver is tuned. The amplitude of the third frequency detected by the receiver is a function of distance, receiver antenna pattern and the number of tag products present on the shelf or peg rack of the particular .

As it moves down the aisle, the transceiver, preferably under software control, sweeps through the SKU specific transmit/ receive frequency sets derived from a master crystal oscillator and tuned in phase-locked loop frequency synthesising circuits so that they will track precisely the nominal SKU frequency sets.

ADVANTAGE - No individual scanning or manipulation required.

US 4673932A

A computerised transceiver repeatedly sweeps through a set of transmit/receive frequencies to interrogate collectively a plurality of groups of items in a stocking area. Items in each group are tagged with a printed circuit transponder tuned to frequencies uniquely assigned to each group.

Data turned is stored and combined mathematically by the computer to arrive at the total number of items in each group. The system is particularly adapted for taking inventory of a large number of retail shelf goods using a mobile transceiver. (10pp)h

US 4862160A

The computerized transceiver repeatedly sweeps through a set of transmit/receive frequencies to interrogate collectively groups of items in a stocking area. Items in each group are tagged with a printed circuit transponder tuned to frequencies uniquely assigned to each group. Data returned is stored and combined mathematically by the computer to arrive at the total number of items in each group.

The system is particularly adapted for taking inventory of a large number of retail shelf goods using a mobile transceiver. (10pp)

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/13 Dwg.1/13

DERWENT-CLASS: Q35 W02 W06
EPI-CODES: W02-G09; W06-A04B;

End of Result Set



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L14: Entry 5 of 5

File: DWPI

Jul 31, 1985

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1985-185710
DERWENT-WEEK: 198531
COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Interrogator-transporter for automatic shelf inventory system - sweeps through several transmit-receive frequency sets derived from master crystal oscillator tuned to PLL synthesiser

IPC Class (5):
G06F

International Patent Classifications(Derived) (5):
G06F015/21

PF Publication Date (1):
19850731

PF Publication Date (2):
19840704

PF Publication Date (3):
19890127

PF Publication Date (4):
19890314

PF Publication Date (5):
19901211

PF Publication Date (6):
19850912

PF Publication Date (7):
19850705

PF Publication Date (8):
19880622

PF Publication Date (9):
19870616

PF Publication Date (10):
19890829

PF Publication Date (11):
19860213

Standard Title Terms (1):
INTERROGATION TRANSPORT AUTOMATIC SHELF INVENTORY SYSTEM SWEEP THROUGH TRANSMIT
RECEIVE FREQUENCY SET DERIVATIVE MASTER CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR TUNE PLL SYNTHESISER



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L14: Entry 1 of 5

File: JPAB

May 31, 1994

PUB-NO: JP406149777A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 06149777 A
TITLE: TARGET VALUE SETTING SIMULATION DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: May 31, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

HARADA, YUKIHIKO

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

SEKISUI CHEM CO LTD

APPL-NO: JP04294257

APPL-DATE: November 2, 1992

INT-CL (IPC): G06F 15/20; G06F 15/24

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To provide the target value setting simulation device which finds optimum values of a stock-out rate, inventory months, a production ability margin, a setup change frequency, and a production lead time.

CONSTITUTION: This simulation device is equipped with an inventory simulation part 11 which finds the respective relations of the stock-out rate, inventory months, production ability margin, setup change frequency, and production lead time from an equation for finding the safe volume of inventories, an equation for finding the setup change frequency, an equation for finding the mean volume of inventories, and an equation for finding the mean volume of stockpile inventories, a cost conversion part 12 which converts the values of effects obtained when the stock-out rate, inventory months, production ability margin, setup change frequency, and projection lead time are converted optionally and the required investment cost, and a display part 13 which displays a list of the amount of money found by the cost conversion part 12 and the stock-out rate, inventory months, production margin, setup change frequency, and production lead time found by the inventory simulation part 11.

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L14: Entry 1 of 5

File: JPAB

May 31, 1994

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 06149777 A

TITLE: TARGET VALUE SETTING SIMULATION DEVICE

Abstract Text (2):

CONSTITUTION: This simulation device is equipped with an inventory simulation part 11 which finds the respective relations of the stock-out rate, inventory months, production ability margin, setup change frequency, and production lead time from an equation for finding the safe volume of inventories, an equation for finding the setup change frequency, an equation for finding the mean volume of inventories, and an equation for finding the mean volume of stockpile inventories, a cost conversion part 12 which converts the values of effects obtained when the stock-out rate, inventory months, production ability margin, setup change frequency, and projection lead time are converted optionally and the required investment cast, and a display part 13 which displays a list of the amount of money found by the cost conversion part 12 and the stock-out rate, inventory months, production margin, setup change frequency, and production lead time found by the inventory simulation part 11.

Publication Date (1):

19940531

International Classification, Main (1):

G06F015/20

International Classification, Secondary (1):

G06F015/24



Generate Collection

Print

L2: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Nov 21, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6151582

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6151582 A

TITLE: Decision support system for the management of an agile supply chain

DATE-ISSUED: November 21, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Huang; Ying	Yorktown Heights	NY		
Desiraju; Ramakrishna	North Tarrytown	NY		
Begue; Christophe	White Plains	NY		
Bakkalbasi; Omer	Mahopac	NY		
Chan; Lap Mui Ann	Ossining	NY		
Bhaskaran; Krishnakumar	Tarrytown	NY		
Federgruen; Awi	Holliswood	NY		
Aviv; Yossi	Edison	NJ		
Krasinski; Raymond J.	Suffern	NY		
Boey; Peter	Scarborough	NY		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE	CODE
Philips Electronics North America Corp.	New York	NY				02

APPL-NO: 08/ 735634 [PALM]

DATE FILED: February 24, 1997

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/005,860, filed Oct. 26, 1995; 60/008,101, filed Oct. 30, 1996; 60/022,787, filed Jul. 30, 1996; and 60/012,327, filed Feb. 27, 1996.

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 15/46, G06 F 15/24

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/8; 705/7, 705/10

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/8; 705/10, 705/7

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/7, 705/8, 705/10

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/> 4646238	February 1987	Carlson, Jr. et al.	364/468.01
<input type="checkbox"/> 4839803	June 1989	Kawashima et al.	705/7
<input type="checkbox"/> 5063506	November 1991	Brockwell et al.	705/7
<input type="checkbox"/> 5099431	March 1992	Natarajan	364/468.12
<input type="checkbox"/> 5101352	March 1992	Rembert	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/> 5216612	June 1993	Cornett et al.	364/468.02
<input type="checkbox"/> 5231567	July 1993	Matoba et al.	364/468.06
<input type="checkbox"/> 5237495	August 1993	Morii	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/> 5237496	August 1993	Xagami et al.	705/10
<input type="checkbox"/> 5278750	January 1994	Kaneko et al.	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/> 5291394	March 1994	Chapman	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/> 5295066	March 1994	Aoki	364/468.15
<input type="checkbox"/> 5303146	April 1994	Ammirato et al.	707/503
<input type="checkbox"/> 5311438	May 1994	Sellers et al.	364/468.02
<input type="checkbox"/> 5315509	May 1994	Natarajan	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/> 5479343	December 1995	Matoba et al.	364/468.13
<input type="checkbox"/> 5630070	May 1997	Dietrich et al.	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/> 5712989	January 1998	Johnson et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/> 5771172	June 1998	Yamamoto et al.	364/468.13
<input type="checkbox"/> 5854746	December 1998	Yamamoto et al.	364/468.13
<input type="checkbox"/> 5914878	June 1999	Yamamoto et al.	364/468.13
<input type="checkbox"/> 5946662	August 1999	Ettl et al.	705/8

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
2293902	April 1996	GB	
22939021	April 1996	GB	

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Elimam A.A., "A Decision Support System (DSS) for Agricultural Pesticide Production Planning", European Journal of Operational Research, vol. 81, No. 1, Feb. 1995, pp. 17-34.

Lacaze et al., "C.sub.c H.sub.2 F.sub.2 : Case Comprehensive Hybrid-Hybrid Forecasting Framework", Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation, vol. 1, Oct. 1995, pp. 701-708.

Randhawa et al. "A Decision Aid for Coordinating Fishing and Fish Processing", European Journal of Operational Research, vol. 81, No. 1, Feb. 1995, pp. 62-75.

ART-UNIT: 277

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Swann; Tod R.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Myhre; James W.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Thorne; Gregory L.

ABSTRACT:

A decision support system for managing an agile supply chain including a server side and a client side. The server side includes a decision support system database that interfaces with a model engine that performs analysis of the data to support planning decisions. The server side also includes a server manager that coordinates requests for service and information. The client side includes decision frames that present the various view points available in the system to the users. A frame manager coordinates the requests from the decision support frames to access the needed data and models.

9 Claims, 70 Drawing figures



Generate Collection

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L6: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Nov 21, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6151582 A

TITLE: Decision support system for the management of an agile supply chain

US Patent No. (1):

6151582

Detailed Description Text (299):

The estimated inventory statistics calculation feature supported by the FGIM Module 164 computes and displays the following inventory related measurements: average inventory level (as weeks of sales); expected stock-out probability; service level (fill rate); inventory carrying cost; and total cost (including production, inventory holding, stock out penalty and transportation costs) for the chosen inventory policy and policy parameters.

End of Result Set



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L3: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Nov 27, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6324522

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6324522 B1

TITLE: Electronic information network for inventory control and transfer

DATE-ISSUED: November 27, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Peterson; Larry C.	Holland	OH		
Kwiatkowski; Steven E.	Perrysburg	OH		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
MRO Software, Inc.	Bedford	MA			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 153705 [PALM]

DATE FILED: September 15, 1998

PARENT-CASE:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application No. 60/058,824, filed Sep. 15, 1997.

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/28; 705/22, 705/26, 705/29

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/28; 705/22, 705/26, 705/29

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/28, 705/22, 705/29, 705/10, 705/26

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4459663	July 1984	Dye	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	4591983	May 1986	Bennett et al.	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	4646238	February 1987	Carlson, Jr. et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/>	4656591	April 1987	Goldberg	705/28
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<input type="checkbox"/>	4827423	May 1989	Beasley et al.	364/468.02
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4947028</u>	August 1990	Gorog	705/38
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4958292</u>	September 1990	Kaneko et al.	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4992940</u>	February 1991	Dworkin	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5089970</u>	February 1992	Lee et al.	364/468.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5197001</u>	March 1993	Mukherjee	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5204821</u>	April 1993	Inui et al.	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5210686</u>	May 1993	Jernigan	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5212791</u>	May 1993	Damian et al.	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5216594</u>	June 1993	White et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5260866</u>	November 1993	Lisinski et al.	705/29
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5283829</u>	February 1994	Anderson	380/24
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5287267</u>	February 1994	Jayaraman et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5295067</u>	March 1994	Cho et al.	705/29
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5642419</u>	June 1997	Rosen	380/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5666493</u>	September 1997	Wojcik et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5708780</u>	January 1998	Levergood et al.	709/229
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5712989</u>	January 1998	Johnson et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5715314</u>	February 1998	Payne et al.	380/24
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5717989</u>	February 1998	Tozzoli et al.	705/37
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5724424</u>	March 1998	Gifford	380/24
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5727164</u>	March 1998	Kaye et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5758327</u>	May 1998	Gardner et al.	705/26

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<input type="checkbox"/> 5914878	June 1999	Yamamoto et al.	705/28
<input type="checkbox"/> 5940807	August 1999	Purcell	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/> 6006199	December 1999	Berlin et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/> 6023683	February 2000	Johnson et al.	705/26
<input type="checkbox"/> 6081789	June 2000	Purcell	706/26
<input type="checkbox"/> 6115641	September 2000	Brown et al.	705/26

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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ART-UNIT: 211

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ABSTRACT:

A process for distributing items, especially industrial maintenance repair and operating (MRO) parts and supplies. The process includes as a first step providing a plurality of vendors for selling the item. Next, an information network by which each vendor can communicate to the other vendors a current inventory quantity and a current price of the item each of the vendors has for sale. A last step includes establishing an agreement among the vendors in which a first vendor agrees to sell to a second vendor, upon demand at a future point in time, up to the then current inventory quantity of the item at the then current price communicated over the information network by the first vendor to the second vendor.

4 Claims, 21 Drawing figures